

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An option module for realizing a specific function while being connected to a printer, comprising:

5 means for inquiring to the printer to which the option module is connected (below, referred to as "the connected printer") regarding a print function usable with the connected printer,

wherein only the print function usable with the connected printer is designated and operated to realize the specific function.

10 2. The option module according to claim 1, wherein the specific function is a function for generating a print image based on data described in a printer control language.

3. The option module according to claim 1, wherein the print function includes at least one of: a function to print at a specific resolution level, a double-sided print
15 function, a print function using a secondary memory device, a print function using a specific paper feeder or paper discharge tray, a print function using a mailbox, a collate print function, and a color print function.

4. The option module according to claim 1, wherein the option module is a memory device storing a program, and the program is executed on the printer to
20 realize the specific function.

5. A control method for an option module for realizing a specific function while being connected to a printer, comprising the steps of:

inquiring to the printer to which the option module is connected (below, referred to as "the connected printer") regarding a print function usable with the
25 connected printer; and

designating only the print function usable with the connected printer and executing operations to realize the specific function.

6. An option program for a printer for realizing a specific function, for causing a computer to function as:

30 means for inquiring to the printer installed with the option program regarding a print function usable with the printer; and

means for designating only the print function usable with the printer and executing operations to realize the specific function.

7. A printing system, comprising: the option module according to claim 1; and a printer constructed so as to be able to connect with the option module.